WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 8, NO. 11 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | MARCH 1998

"War is capitalism with the gloves off." **Tom Stoppard**

On The Current Crisis in Iraq

Larry Mosqueda

As these words are being written (Sunday, February 23, 1998), it appears that an agreement has been brokered between the Secretary General of the United Nations and the government of Iraq. Whether this agreement is satisfactory enough to the Clinton administration to prevent it from bombing the nation and people of Iraq remains to be seen. But I would like to explore the larger issues surrounding the crisis, the history of the current situation, and what people can do about the situation now, and in the near future.

The United States is preparing for another massacre in Iraq - it is not preparing for a war - anymore than it prepared for a war in 1991. A war would entail two competing armed forces from nations engaged in a sustained conflict with competing armed forces over immediate and long-term goals and objectives. What happened in 1991 was a massacre. Over 200,000 Iraqi men, women and children died in a sustained air and ground attack which even the "allied" forces call a "turkey shoot." Only about 300 American soldiers (not civilians) died and about half of those were by "friendly fire" and accidents.

To call such a massacre a "war" gives an absurd connotation to an already obscene concept. The United States acknowledges that the proposed bombing raids will not destroy Iraq's war-making capacity - it will only diminish it. The United States also acknowledges that it will not destroy Saddam Hussein, even though the U.S. claims it would like to see him leave power.

There has been quite a bit of loose talk on the airwaves and in the public that perhaps the U.S. should assassinate Saddam Hussein. Such talk is quite dangerous since it is illegal under domestic and international law to assassinate a foreign leader. If one believes that Hussein should be assassinated, then one believes that assassination is a legitimate tool of foreign policy. If one believes that assassination is a legitimate tool of foreign policy, then one believes that other countries have the "right" to assassinate leaders in this country. One has lost any moral authority to protest except to complain that "they" got our "guy" before we "got" their guy. No one should be assassinated.

In this regard, the U.S. has lost any moral authority long ago with its assassinations of Salvador Allende of Chile, Patrice Lumumba of the Congo, the Phoenix program in Vietnam, several attempts (in collusion with the Mafia) to assassinate Fidel Castro - among numerous examples.

The U.S. does acknowledge that it will destroy, with the bombings, much of the remaining infrastructure of Iraq - which will increase the misery and bring more death to the Iraqi people. The United Nations reported last year that close to one million Iraqis have died as a result of the sanctions - over half were children under the age of five. While the U.S. hides under a "fig leaf" that Saddam Hussein is responsible, it is clearly the U.S. that is imposing sanctions against the Iraqi people.

The U.S. has virtually no support from its so-called allies for further military moves against Iraq. Except for "Great" Britain, the allies recognize the futility of more military attacks against the people of Iraq. This includes most of the so-called "coalition" of 1991, most notably Saudi Arabia - one of the nations the U.S. was pretending to protect in 1991.

The U.S. gives the legal rationale that it is trying to enforce United Nations' resolutions against Iraq (under the persona of Saddam Hussein). Most of the nations of the General Assembly and Security Council (the "Security Council" being a leftover of the victorious nations of World War II) are against the United States' proposed actions. In the week preceding the U.N. Secretary General's trip to Baghdad, the United States did everything possible to undermine and subvert his authority and mission.

We have the absurb scenario where the United States says that it will enforce U.N. resolutions - even if the U.N. does not want it to do so. Is this because the United States is the only - or most law-abiding - nation on earth? Perhaps NOT.

The United States is very selective about which U.N. resolutions it wants to enforce. For example, there were nearly yearly resolutions calling for an international Middle East peace conference and negotiations. The typical yearly votes were as follows:

1988 - 138 votes in favor; 2 against.
1989 - 151 votes in favor; 3 against.
1990 - 144 votes in favor; 2 against.

The two nations consistently against an international conference for peace in the Middle East were the United States and Israel - because those nations would *not be able to control* the results of an international comprehensive peace.

If the United States wanted to enforce U.N. resolutions in the Middle East, it could enforce U.N. resolution #425 (March 1978) ordering Israel out of Lebanon "immediately and unconditionally." Israel has violated numerous other U.N. resolutions. Should we argue that the United States should bomb Tel Aviv? Of course not - that would be absurd, insane and indecent. But no more absurd, insane or indecent than the bombing of Baghdad.

At the recent CNN-staged "town meeting" at Ohio State University, U.S. Secretary of State Madeline Albright could not answer the question on whether the U.S. had the "moral right" to attack Iraq - for good reason. As an example, in one year, 1987, the U.N. voted 154 in favor and 1 against to oppose nuclear weapons in outer space; and it voted 135 in favor and 1 against to oppose new weapons of "mass destruction." (A phrase we have heard often lately.) Of course, the only nation in the world to oppose these resolutions was the United States.

In the same year, the U.N. voted 143 in favor and 2 against for a comprehensive nuclear test ban; 137 in favor and 2 against to halt all nuclear tests explosions; and 124 against and 1 in favor to make the South Atlantic a "zone of peace." The United States was the consistent nation to vote against proposals which would strengthen world peace.

In 1989, the U.S., of course, vetoed the condemnation of itself for its invasion of Panama.

There are scores of other examples, but one more will suffice. In 1986, the U.S. government was judged to be in violation of international law, a war criminal, in its case with Nicaragua in the World Court at the Hague. The ruling resulted from the illegal war (under both domestic and international law) against Nicaragua, and the mining of its harbors. The U.S. was ordered to pay reparations which were recently assessed at $17 billion. The U.S., of course, continues its criminal record by refusing to pay the damages.

Neighbors Invading Neighbors

We are also told by our government and "independent" media that the United States is concerned about evil dictators invading their neighbors. Perhaps NOT.

One of the fundamental lessons one should learn if one wants to promote a life of deceit (e.g., U.S. diplomat) is that the best lies have an element of truth within them. For example, we are told that Saddam Hussein is a dictator, that he has killed his own people, that he is corrupt, and that he invades and occupies his neighbors. All of that is true, but absolutely irrelevant to U.S. foreign policy. If the United States were concerned about neighbors invading neighbors, the following situations would have had different results:

* Israel invaded Lebanon in the 1970s and 1980s, with U.S. support.
* Syria invaded Lebanon in the 1980s, with little real reaction from the U.S.
* The U.S. itself invaded Lebanon in 1958.
* Morocco invaded Western Sahara in the 1980s.
* Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975 with the approval, funding and arms of the United States. This has resulted in one of the worst acts of genocide in the post WWII era.
* The U.S. invaded Grenada in 1983, and Panama in 1989.
* Iraq, our current nemesis, invaded Iran in the 1980s. The leader of Iraq at the time was a man named Saddam Hussein. Of course, at the time, Saddam Hussein had the approval of the United States since he was "our" ally, friend and an asset of the CIA.

The two nations consistently against an international conference for peace in the Middle East were the United States and Israel - because those nations would* not be able to control *the results of an international comprehensive peace.

Only in 1990, when Iraq invaded Kuwait, did the United States find this invasion activity unacceptable and the "solution" was to bomb Baghdad.

Without going into details of the 1991 massacre, it is important to note that the massacre was not necessary, since Iraq was willing to negotiate its differences with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Many nations, including France and Russia (just as now in 1998), were proposing solutions to some of the legitimate concerns of the various nations involved. It is crystal clear that there could have been a negotiated settlement, but that would have meant that the United State government would not have been in total control of the settlement, and would have less control of the region. Therefore, the United State caused the war to occur.

BUT WHY?

If the persona of Saddam Hussein was not the main problem, nor the so-called "weapons of mass destruction" - which were used against Iran and the Kurds of Northern Iraq with the complicity and approval of the United States in the 1980s - what was the reason for the 1991 attack, and the continuing campaign against the people of the region?

The answer is not surprising — the CONTROL OF OIL. Virtually everyone in the world is aware of this — except the mass media in this country. If one scans the new reports for past two months, one

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WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred). Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, worksinprogress@juno.com, or come by our office and drop it in the "WIP Box" located in the Liberation Cafe.

Back Issues:

A complete set of back issues is located in the library of Liberation Cafe along with a chrono-index.

WIP is also being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Dave Campbell	Hali Panneton
Frank Hoffman	Tara Perkins
Teresa Jennings	CJ Russo
Jerome Johnson	Marie Smith
Evelyn Montague	Sylvia Smith
Giles O'Dell	Pat Tassoni
Wendy Ortiz	

Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, March 20th

6pm at Liberation Cafe

Proofreading Meeting

Tuesday, March 24th
7 pm at Liberation Cafe

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Letters & Briefs

Progressive TCTV Programming

I read with interest Wendy Ortiz' (WIP article Feb. 98) article on the formation of the Radical Alternative Media Project and look forward to working with RAMP on increasing progressive programming on TCTV.

Having moved to Olympia in May, 1996 and discovered the opportunity at TCTV shortly thereafter, I wanted to outline some of what I've done to promote the progressive "agenda" at TCTV.

Whatever it's current downside may be—such as too much dogmatic religious crap!—the opportunity to shape what goes on the air is everbody's right and choice. Next to community radio (KAOS) TCTV is the best thing we in the progressive community got going for us.

I joined TCTV for $15 in August 1996 and completed basic training courses in September (evenings). Since I was already involved with the Peace Trees Vietnam project—demining and reforestation in Central Vietnam—I chose to make this my first TV film/video project. In early 1997, I met and teamed up with Carol Burns, a founder of TCTV and active local videographer, who expressed interest in helping to produce a professional documentary on the Peace Trees project. Over the next 9 months, this video project came to fruition thanks to several hundred hours of voluntary efforts on Carol's part. It aired on TCTV last November and is being distributed internationally by the Earthstewards Network who sponsored the project and the video. (You can order a copy of the video from Carol (866-7645) or myself (705-3528) at cost for $12.)

Also, early last year, I discovered a treasure trove of progressive video, from around the country, being distributed by a group in Boulder, CO called Free Speech TV, formerly The 90's Channel. With the help of Jimmy Mateson at Media Island International, I started airing FSTV on TCTV last April—4 hrs/week. I currently receive 4 tapes per month for FREE; good thru May. The showtimes are Wed. 10-12pm and Friday midnight-2am (adult hours).

With Media Island as a sponsor, we've got shows like "Broken Rainbow", "Deadly Embrace/IMF", and "Burma Diary" on the air. My personal "shoots" have included David Barsamian of Alternative Radio, Indigenous People's Day, TET festivals, and the like.

I'm striving to be a regular presence at most of the Liberation Cafe special events and speakers held most Friday evenings. And in January, I commenced producing the monthly "Progressive Roundtable Forum" for community activists which airs on Wednesdays at 9pm and Saturdays at 5pm on a weekly basis. We've already presented 18 community activists "showcased" on our first two shows although we plan on trimming the number to four to six per show to allow for more in-depth discussions.

I'm open to ideas and input. If you or your group want to be on please call me at 705-3528 and I'll do my best to work you in. We shoot the first Saturday of every month from 12-4 pm at TCTV.

The best part about my involvement with TCTV, especially with the production of the Progressive Roundtable Forum is that I'm getting better acquainted with alot of great people active in the community. I'm dedicated to bringing as much progressive programming to the TCTV airwaves as I can.

I encourage all those interested in transforming the local public access channel into a truely progressive communications medium to get involved with TCTV and join RAMP. Together we can make a difference!

Chris Stegman

Another Guess What?!

Did you know that there exists a manufactured plant-based generic form of estrogen? And did you know that Congress and our own Patty Murray aided by the FDA, voted to not allow American women access, because of intense lobbying by manufacturer Wyeth-Ayerst? By taking a form of estrogen called Premarin, American women have been convinced that they can stay young-looking, and not have the symptoms of menopause—sleeplessness, hot flashes, dry skin, etc.

Some of the problems with making or taking artificial estrogen are:

·Premarin is made from mares' urine. Consider how many female horses have to endure being locked down so the urine can be collected (85,000), and how many of their babies are destroyed (65,000) to keep the urine coming, according to the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

·Consider that Premarin taken daily costs from $15-25 a month, garnering $1 billion per year. Consider that Wyeth-Ayerst has a virtual monopoly (Premarin is the most prescribed drug in the U.S., Prozac the second) because they got the FDA to "change its guidelines in determining bioequivalence in generics, making it difficult for competitors to match Premarin." Consider that Wyeth-Ayerst will make up to $3 billion a year more when female baby boomers reach menopause.

·Consider the advertising/lobbying clout the money gives this Corporation. And they use it. When the FDA research found that the "generic, plant-based estrogen was as effective" as Premarin, it did not get this information to women's groups or to Congress.

·Consider that you have to have insur-

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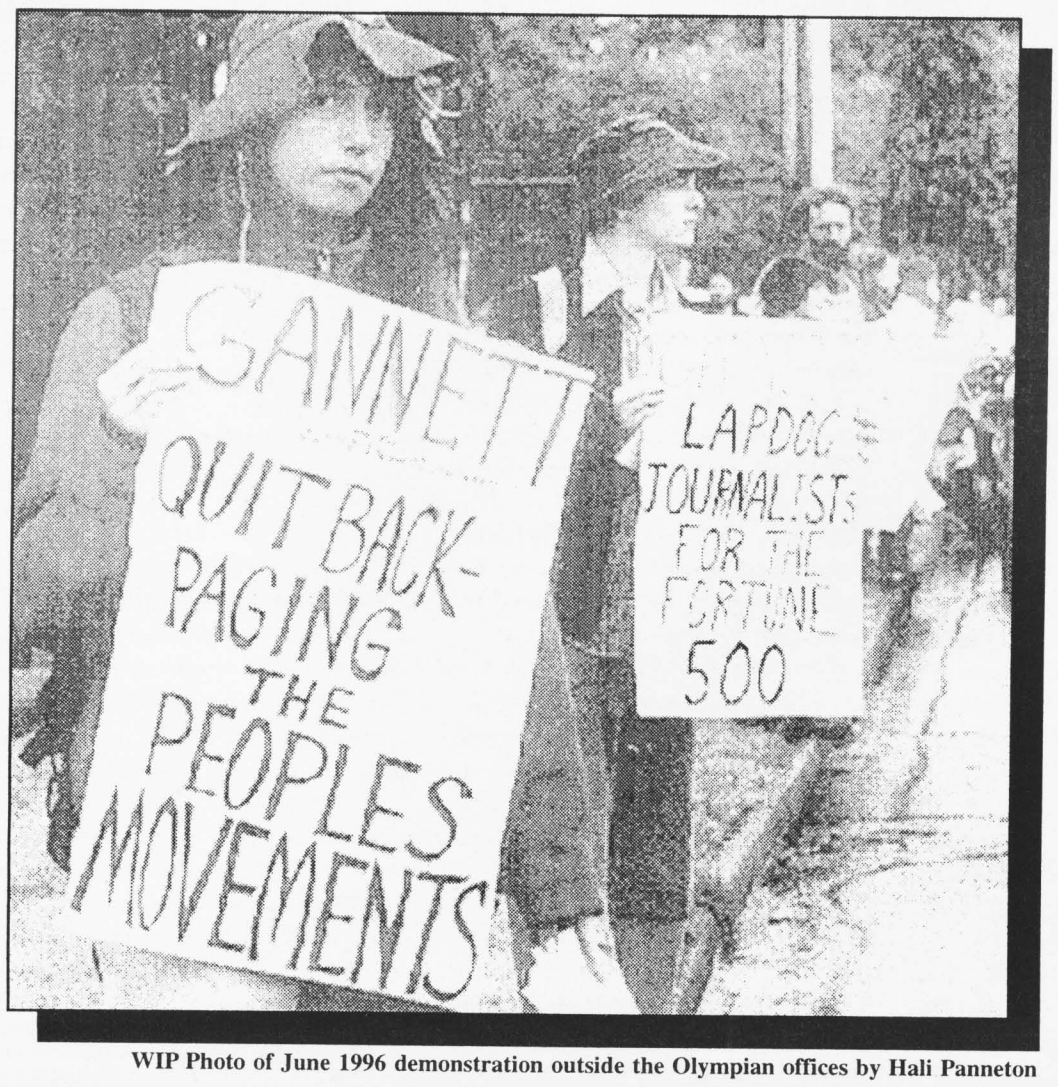
MARCH 1998

The Gannett Company



WIP Photo of June 1996 demonstration outside the Olympian offices by Hali Panneton

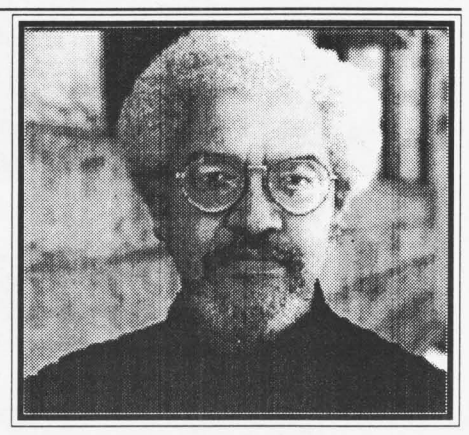
The Virginia-based Gannett Company is the largest and most geographically diverse newspaper publisher in the country. It owns 92 papers including USA Today (which is the largest of only two national daily newspapers), 15 television stations, 11 radio stations, direct marketing and printing firms, an information network, an across-media advertising sales division, cable television systems in five states, alarm security services, and until the sale of Gannett Outdoor Group last December, controlled 3/4 of the nation's 14,000 bus-shelters in it's bus-shelter advertising business. In addition, Gannett publishes *USA Today* International which "is available in more than 90 countries throughout Asia, Europe, North Africa and the Middle East."

Gannett specializes in acquiring small town newspapers similar to *The Olympian* that are the only newspaper in town effectively making them the only outlets for print advertisements. Not only does it force advertisers to use their papers for advertising, it forces people on the margin, unions, and activists to rely on the local Gannett paper to tell their stories, if Gannett will. If Gannett won't, then they, too, are forced to buy space if they can scrape together enough dough.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **1974**- Indictments returned against 7 former presidential aides in Watergate conspiracy. Nixon named as co-conspirator	**2** **1899**- Congress establishes Mount Rainier National Park **1807**- U.S. prohibits "the importation of slaves into the U.S.	**3** **1991**- Los Angeles police are videotaped beating Rodney King. He is struck with batons at least 56 times and kicked 7 times	**4** **1908**- New York board of education bans whipping **1908**- School fire kills 176 at Collinwood School in Cleveland	**5** **1933**- Roosevelt announces bank holiday **1982**- John Belushi dead from drug abuse **1996** - Norm Rice is running for Governor	**6** **1910**- German police shoot, saber socialists during demonstration **1857**- Supreme Court announces its decision in Dred Scott case	**7** **1996** - Federal Judge Zilly upholds Navy's decision to discharge 15-year veteran who wouldn't deny homosexual activity
8 **1996** - Dow Jones drops 171 points after announcement unemployment fell to 5.5% **1917**- Russian Revolution begins	**9** **1947**- UAW settles strike against Case Manufacturing Company after 440 days **1989**- Eastern Airlines files for bankruptcy	**10** **1995** - U of W reports taking calcium channel blockers to control high blood pressure may increase risk of heart attack by 60 %	**11** **1996** - Joe De La Cruz hands in resignation from Washington state Fish and Wildlife Commission due to "blatant bigotry"	**12** *full moon* ● **1945**-Anne Frank dies in concentration camp **1909**- US warships ordered to Nicaragua to stem conflict with El Salvador	**13** **1995** - Olympia extends health care to unmarried partners of city employees **1925**- Tennessee: bans evolution in schools	**14** **1907**- Japanese laborers were excluded from immigrating to the continental United States by presidential order
15 **1995** - Margarethe Cammermeyer has book-signing session before Hands Off Washington breakfast at the The Westwater	**16** **1995** - LIHI holds a public meeting to explain Fleetwood Building Proposal **1968**- Viet Nam: My Lai massacre	**17** **1948**- The Hell's Angels established with 25 members **1917**- St. Louis: First bowling tournament for women held	**18** **1937**- School fire kills 294 in New London, Texas **1995** - Food and Drug Admin. approves chicken pox vaccine	**19** **1951**- The Caine Mutiny is published **1959**- Dalai Lama flees his country after revolt by natives against Chinese troops	**20** **1995** - US District Judge bars Pentagon from discharging 6 homosexuals ruling "don't ask, don't tell" unconstitutional	**21** **1996** - House of Rep. votes to put fence along Mexican border **1996** - England: Mad Cow disease linked to deaths of 10 people
22 **1987**- Garbage barge with 3,200 tons of refuse leaves Islip, NY, on a six-month journey in search of place to unload	**23** **1942**- Japanese-Americans of the Pacific coast are moved from their homes **1983**- Pres. Reagan proposes Star Wars	**24** **1989**- Exxon Valdez runs aground **1995** - 1,000 state workers protest GOP's budget proposal on Capitol steps	**25** **1911**- 147 lives lost in fire of the Triangle Shirt Waist Company. **1947**- Mine explosion in Centralia, Illinois kills 111 miners	**26** **1996** - Olympia will widen 4th Ave bridge **1996** - Bernardean Broadous announces countywide task force to counter gangs	**27** **1995** - Olympia School Board hears testimony regarding Col. Margarethe Cam-mermeyer at Olympia High School	**28** **1995** - 1 in 4 US children live in poverty **1995** - Workers under the age of 18 are three times more likely to be injured on the job
29 **1995** - State Supreme Court Justice Utter, announces his resignation due to his opposition to capital punishment.	**30** **1996** - Governor Lowry vetos ban on death row inmate organ transplants, "clearly unconstitutional"	**31** **1995** - Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer speaks at Olympia High's assembly honoring Women's History	**"The whole process of corrupting the news, where corruption today exists, is less often the deliberate work of men bent on falsehood than a process of drifting before the winds of circumstance, timidity, and self-interest."** **Frederick Lewis Allen**	**FEBRUARY** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	**APRIL** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	

Along the Color Line

Labor Organizing and the Black Poor



Dr. Manning Marable

The most important election to take place this fall was largely unreported in the press. There were no public debates, no campaign slogans or posters, not even a bumper sticker. There weren't even any candidates running for office. This election was not about personalities, but power. At stake was potentially the economic future of millions of poor people across the country.

Since the passage of the draconian 1996 welfare bill, the survival of several million poor women and children, the majority of whom are blacks and Latinos, became at risk. Hundreds of thousands of Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) recipients have been forced into various "workfare" schemes. In New York City, for example, many AFDC recipients are required to work 20 or more hours each week in order to receive their modest payments.

These women usually work in jobs normally associated with the lowest wages: cleaning public toilets and streets, mopping hospital floors, picking up litter in subway stations. Few women receive proper equipment for their jobs. Health and safety safeguards are virtually non-existent. Frequently women assigned to work outside are not even provided with toilet facilities.

Several decades ago, the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, known as ACORN, began building a progressive, human rights movement among America's poorest and most oppressed people. Today ACORN has over 200,000 members. In its latest initiative, ACORN began a campaign in New York City to achieve union representation status for workfare workers.

The only long-term solution to this dilemma is to bring poor people into the organized labor movement.

Some political "experts" thought that ACORN's efforts to organize AFDC recipients was quixotic at best. Welfare mothers, for the most part, have no personal history or experience in unions. Besides, organized labor had traditionally viewed poor people's problems and concerns as being irrelevant to its own interests.

This October, New York City's 35,000 workfare participants were given the choice to determine whether they desired to have union representation. Over a period of four days, about 17,300 people cast ballots at 250 polling sites across the city. The election results were clear: almost 17,000 workfarre workers voted in favor of organizing a union, with barely 300 voting against. The vote showed without a doubt that "welfare mothers" recognize the exploitation of labor inherent in the workfare program.

Representative of Republican Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani immediately dismissed this overwhelming mandate for union representation. Randy L. Levine, New York City's Deputy Mayor for Economic Development, protested that because welfare is supposed to be "temporary," that it made no sense for "welfare recipients to become city employees." ACORN organizers immediately challenged the Giuliani administration to meet with them, with the goal of improving working conditions for workfare workers.

The most important factor in rebuilding the black freedom movement lies in the linkage of distinct yet overlapping constituencies within the African-American community. Two critical groups here are the low wage workers and welfare recipients. There is often tension and misplaced hostility between black workers who earn barely more that the federal government's minimum wage, vs. poor people who have been unemployed for years, or those who barely manage to survive on public assistance. Both groups are manipulated against each other, to protect the interests of employers who want to keep labor costs low. The only long-term solution to this dilemma is to bring poor people into the organized labor movement. The NAACP, Urban League, and other civil rights organizations need to follow ACORN's lead in reaching out to organize the most oppressed people within black America. The vitality and vision of our movement must be judged not against the economic gains of the black middle class, but within the material conditions and prospects for those black folks who have the least. As we elevate and empower workfare workers, we advance the interests of our entire community.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University, New York City. "Along the Color Line" is distributed free of charge and regularly appears in over 325 black and progressive publications worldwide. ◆

Raise the Minimum Wage:
The Paycheck Protection Act—Initiative 688

Why do we need to raise the minimum wage?

The minimum wage is supposed to assure "the maintenance of the minimum standard of living necessary for health, efficiency, and general well-being of workers." No one can say our current minimum wage does this. A full-time worker who makes $5.15 an hour earns barely over $10,000 annually, 30% below the federal poverty threshold for a family of four and 15% below for a family of three.

Why now? Wasn't the minimum wage increased just recently?

The most recent increase in the federal minimum wage translated to a negligible bump from $4.90 to $5.15 in Washington state. And not all workers even got that. Tipped restaurant employees and people whose jobs do not involve interstate commerce, like employees of a Mom-and-Pop grocery store, did not get that raise. But even at $5.15, it is not near enough.

With the welfare-to-work movement at full steam, there is little motivation to enter the workforce at a minimum wage that keeps you in poverty even though you work full-time. You will still need public assistance, whether in the form of food stamps and welfare, or tax-subsidized housing and health care. Already, food banks and homeless shelters in Washington state have noted an alarming increase in the number of *employed* people seeking assistance. *Why should business be allowed to take advantage of a wage so low that taxpayers and charities are forced to pick up their slack?*

Won't this hurt businesses and cost jobs?

These tired arguments appeared when our state first established a minimum wage in 1937, and have been regurgitated with every proposed increase since. The predictions of job loss, inflation and bankrupt small businesses have never come true with previous increases, and won't with the passage of Initiative 688.

Opponents of recent federal increase dreamed up remarkably dire consequences of a higher minimum wage. But what we got was the lowest U.S. unemployment rate in 24 years, and interest rates and inflation so low that some economists this year are warning of deflation. In the first four months after the increase, employment in eating and drinking industries grew at a rate four times faster than the previous year.

Washington state is not going to lose jobs to neighboring states that already have a higher minimum wage.

Who makes minimum wage? Aren't they mostly teenagers and part-timers?

We're not just talking about teenagers working for gas money. A recent University of Washington study on who earns the minimum wage found that:

·More than two-thirds are over the age of 20.

·One-half are between 25 and 65 years old.

·Fully 70 percent are women; and

·One-third are *primary wage earners* for their families.

Recent job growth in Washington has primarily been in jobs that pay at or near the minimum wage. The Department of Employment Security's Occupational Outlook for 1995-2010 lists such jobs as retail sales clerks, home-care aides and health care workers at the top of the "Fastest Growing Occupations" category.

Why should the minimum wage be indexed to the rate of inflation?

It's only fair that the minimum wage keep pace with the rising cost of living. The Paycheck Protection Act proposes to do just that; beginning in 2001, the minimum wage will be indexed to the Consumer Price Index. That way we will save the time and expense of revisiting this issue every few years.

Having the same debate over and over about whether it's time to raise the minimum wage is inefficient, unnecessary, and has allowed the minimum wage to gradually slip further and further behind the rising cost of living. This is how we've ended up with a minimum wage that's supposed to maintain the "standard of living necessary for health, efficiency, and general well-being of worker," but is below poverty standards.

Like most recent initiatives, will this one have paid signature gatherers?

No. This is a citizen's initiative in the old-fashioned sense that only volunteers will collect signatures. A diverse coalition including women's, community, religious, and organized labor groups have all pledged to activate their grassroots networks of members across the state to get the 180,000 signatures necessary.

The coalition believes that some recent initiatives that have resorted to paying for signatures have soured the public on the initiative process with their sometimes deceptive tactics. We believe the Paycheck Protection Act will have enough support that we don't have to pay to get on the ballot.

Why is it called the "Paycheck Protection Act"?

Because that's what adjusting the minimum wage for inflation would do: Protect these workers' paychecks from deflating in value every year. We are fully aware that some right-wing conservatives around the country are attempting to prevent unions from participating in the political process with similarly titled measures. Those efforts are intended to divide working people and divert attention from the real problems our families are facing—which are economic, not political. Initiative 688 is about protecting people and their paychecks, not about protecting corporations' payrolls and their dominant, ever-growing political influence.

For more information or to order petitions for Initiative 688, please contact: Paycheck Protection Act, P.O. Box 19207, Seattle, WA 98109. ◆

Progressive Media Project

Affirmative Action Needed to Combat Long-Standing Prejudices

Linn Washington, Jr.

During my freshman year at a Midwestern University, an anthropology professor in her first lecture declared that black people have the remnants of monkey-like tails.

The professor matter-of-factly told the class that she would have ordered me to drop my pants to display my anthropoid anatomy but she felt that such a "show-and-tail" might make some of the white female students uncomfortable.

This professor's expression of unrestrained racism impelled me to excel in her course.

Far from promoting color-blind admissions, the incessant assault on affirmative action in the academy serves to perpetuate the exclusionary practices that made affirmative action programs necessary in the first place.

I earned the top score on both midterm and the final but the professor failed me in the course.

She accused me of cheating on the final despite acknowledging that she had absolutely no proof that I had. Her only evidence was her belief that blacks were intellectually incapable of scoring 100 percent on her test.

I appealed to the head of the anthropology department, a Kenyan. He said that although he sympathized with me, he couldn't do anything since it would seem that he was siding with me because we both were black. The failing grade stood.

A lawsuit filed recently seeking to dismantle affirmative action programs at the University of Michigan reminded me of the bigotry I confronted in college 28 years ago.

The group, Center for Individual Rights, that initiated the Michigan lawsuit succeeded in getting a federal appeals court to eliminate affirmative action admissions last year at the University of Texas law School.

Numerous witnesses in the trial preceding that 1996 appeals court ruling testified about a hostile racial environment at the University of Texas Law School. They cited professors who make racist slurs and proclaim their low expectations of minority students.

Ironically, a pivotal 1950 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, Sweat v. Painter, outlawing the racist exclusion of blacks at the University of Texas law School laid the foundation for the seminal 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision ending legalized segregation in America.

Two things have always amazed me about the assaults on affirmative action in academia: that these assaults never attack traditional preferential admissions, such as the children of alumni, and that these assaults ignore the history of racism.

In 1994, a federal appeals court voided a minority-scholarship program at the University of Maryland, a school that was segregated by law until 1954 and by policy until 1970. The appeals court stated that the historic segregation at the University of Maryland could not "justify a race-exclusive remedy." But why not? That university has a long way to go toward equality precisely because of its history.

Far from promoting color-blind admissions, the incessant assault on affirmative action in the academy serves to perpetuate the exclusionary practices that made affirmative action programs necessary in the first place.

I didn't fail that anthropology course because I was genetically inferior or because I fooled around instead of studying. I got an F because a professor couldn't hide her racism. Many of today's affirmative action opponents cloak their racism behind the rhetoric of blacks being unable to compete academically. Now they are giving us Fs even before we enroll.

Linn Washington Jr. is a journalism professor at Temple University who writes frequently on race issues. ◆

A Call to Action

Affirmative Action Under Attack

by Anna Schlect

Affirmative Action is under attack by Initiative 200, an initiative to the legislature that seeks to set the clock back 30 years to a time when women and people of color were essentially barred from public employment, contracting, and had difficulty getting into higher education. This initiative may be passed directly into law by our legislature alone, or with an alternative, SB6689, which if passed would leave affirmative action policies largely in place. Or Initiative 200 could be referred to the November 1998 ballot either alone or with the alternative SB6689.

People who support the gains of Affirmative Action are called to action by the Olympia Coalition for Equal Opportunity. This newly formed coalition will be holding its first public meeting on Wednesday, March 11 at 7pm at the Olympia Center, Room 103. The Olympia Center is located at 222 N. Columbia Street in Downtown Olympia. Our goal will be to explore a variety of ways to educate the public about the issues, and to take action. Affirmative Action professionals will be present to give factual information on what affirmative action is and isn't. Representatives of the NO!200 Campaign will also be present to talk about the campaign to defend Affirmative Action. Please join us!

For more information, please call 943-7469.

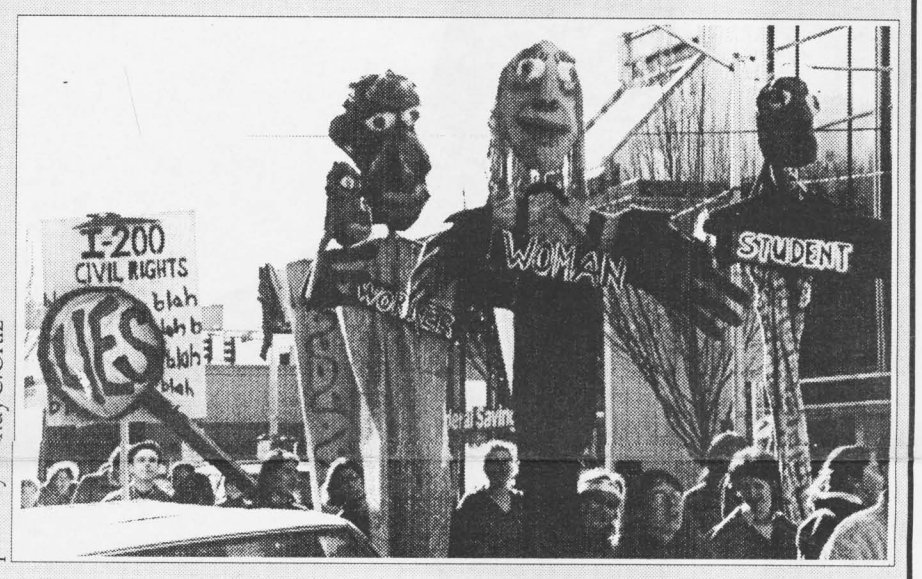


photo by Wendy C. Ortiz

photo by Hali Panneton

Events like this one, generated by the Olympia Art & Revolution Collective, are ways to educate the public about Affirmative Action. Join the Olympia Coalition for Equal Opportunity, and share creative ideas and energy to educate, inform, and act to defeat Initiative 200!

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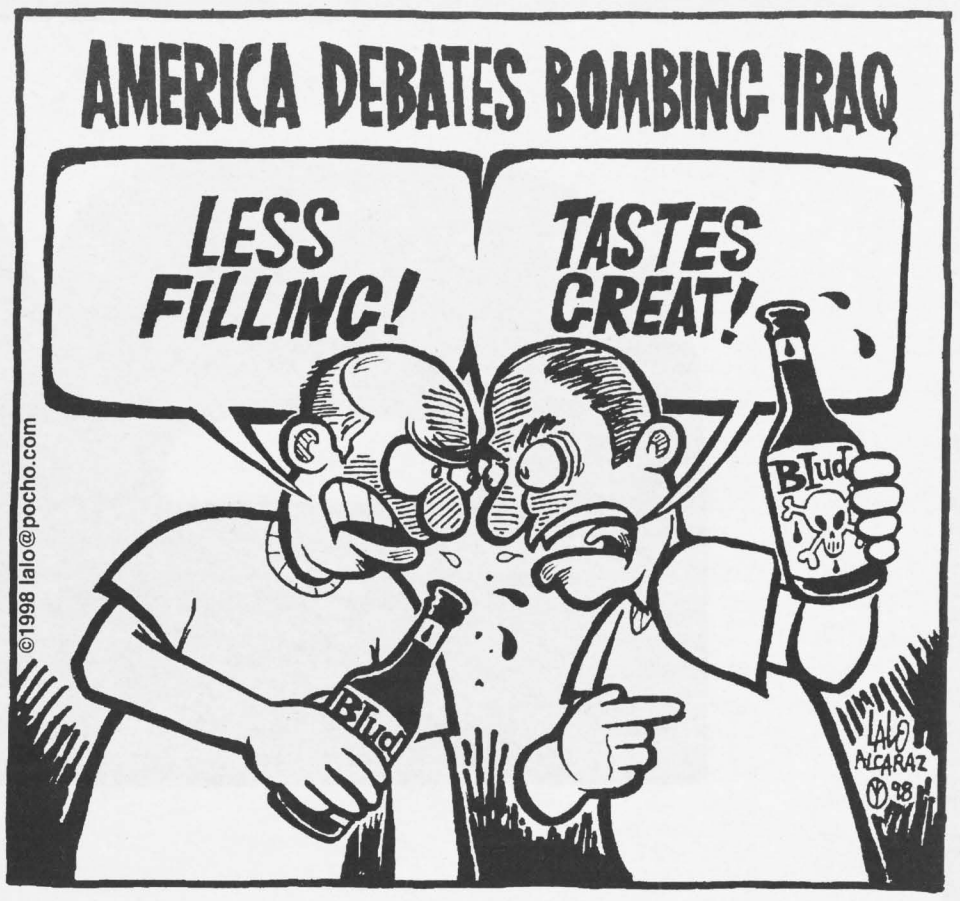
Works In Progress - March, 1998

On Front

How Long a Respite with Iraq?



Jerome Johnson

As I write this, it seems that there will not be an attack on Iraq. . . this week. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan went to Baghdad, negotiated, and is en route back to New York via Paris. After several days of hard work, he says he has an agreement with Iraq that fully satisfies UN resolutions, and even US conditions. If so, a US military strike has been averted, for now. But there are several lessons from this crisis for ungrateful American policy makers. To ignore these lessons would be fatal -- not only for Iraqi civilians, but also for US foreign policy well into the next century.

1. When the trouble started last November, the Administration made its first mistake by sending the USS Nimitz carrier battle group into the Gulf. This was done first, with a lot of threatening language and the arrogant assumption that the rest of the world would agree because We All Know How Dangerous Saddam Hussein Is. Instead, a vigorous diplomatic process, through the UN, should have begun right away. The UN is essential, because although the Administration doesn't know it yet, the Era of American Empire is over. Other nations are learning that collectively they can challenge and resist American efforts in certain cases. The long term solution to Iraq must be a consensus among the world community.

The Era of American Empire is over. Other nations are learning that collectively they can challenge and resist American efforts in certain cases.

2. The UN and the UN Security Council are not going to rubber-stamp US policy, and should not be expected to, especially as long as those whiners in Congress refuse to allow our nation's membership dues to be paid. If this isn't clear by now, it ought to be.

3. In the US, a dutiful media prematurely whipped up war fever without a real discussion or consensus. The Administration discovered the results in Akron, Ohio.

4. The Clinton Administration still has no real long range plan for dealing with Iraq. They need to develop one, build a consensus for it in the world community and implement it -- over years, if necessary. Since the Administration doesn't have a plan I'll share mine with them. We'll call it the Johnson Doctrine.

The Johnson Doctrine

1. Maintain a dialogue through the UN, and eventually directly, with the Iraqi regime. Continue the UNSCOM inspections. If Saddam gets stupid, ALWAYS USE DIPLOMACY FIRST. Get allies -- especially the Gulf states -- on board your policy before deploying forces. Stop jerking when ever Saddam pulls the chain -- stop doing what he expects us to do. Take the initiative from him and stop making him a victim in world opinion, which makes us the bad guys.

2. Significantly increase sea and airlift capacity, and increase troop readiness.

3. If Saddam resists, make every effort to solve the issue diplomatically. Don't build up for a military strike unless you have the UN backing and you really mean to do it.

4. Crack down on Netanyahu, and make him enforce UN resolutions and pursue the peace process. Especially in the Muslim world, Israel, solidly backed by the US, is viewed as a much more dangerous aggressor than Iraq. Secretary Albright's "refusal to make this linkage" won't make it disappear, and she should resign. I'll replace her with Ron Dellums.

5. Prepare a worst-case scenario, as follows:

a) If Saddam commits aggression, the rebuilding of a Coalition.

b) A solid consensus in the US and the world community on military action.

c) A flexible plan, coping with various contingencies (BC attack on Israel, retaliation against Coalition member states, etc)

d) Preparations to fight a long battle in the city of Baghdad, then a long occupation of Iraq while it is rebuilt, similar to the occupations of Germany and Japan after WWII. I estimate a commitment of 1 million US forces over 7-10 years.

e) Before, during and after hostilities, intense assistance to all countries in the region in coping with disease, hunger, injuries and refugees.

f) The US should be prepared for the governments of King Hussein in Jordan, President Mubarak in Egypt, and possibly President Ciller's government in Turkey to be overthrown. Islamic theocracies would probably replace them, and they won't like the US. Civil War in Israel is also very likely.

In Amman, Jordan, and throughout the Muslim world, citizens take to the streets in protest of American imperialism.

In Washington DC, faced with overwhelming world consensus, disappointed saber-rattlers and the Clinton Administration grudgingly accept Annan's agreement.

And in Olympia, a solemn march in the shadow of the Capital underscores the people's desire for peace. ◆

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(Iraq, continued)

is hard-pressed to find any reference to the fact that the area is oil rich. We are apparently supposed to believe that the United States is preparing to bomb Iraq because of some "madman" in the desert who has (mantra) "weapons of mass destruction." Apparently some people do believe this - they are called "journalists."

It is important to note that the USE of oil by the United States is not the issue. Rather, it is the CONTROL of oil. The U.S. has more than enough oil for its own use, and it wastes the amount equivalent to what it imports.

One of the reasons that the U.S. is having difficulty getting full support from its so-called allies is that supporting the U.S. is not in the long-term interests of these allies. Several commentators, such as Joseph Gerson of the New England American Friends Service Committee, and Walter Russell Mead, contributor to World Policy journal, have noted the following: of the so-called "coalition" of 26 nations, the main fighting in 1991 was done by the U.S. and the old colonial powers of Britain and France. Saudi Arabians and Kuwaitis considered the U.S. forces to be their "hired help." The Wall Street Journal reported that one Saudi official called the U.S. soldiers "our white slaves." (This ignored the fact, of course, that about one-third of the U.S. force was made up of people of color.) The elites of Saudi Arabia hired Asian to do their menial work, Palestinians to run their schools, and the U.S. to be the mercenary force. These are not terms used by this author, rather, they are the terms used by the Saudi and Kuwaiti elites.

Gerson and Mead note that the world is moving toward three currency zones: a United States dollar zone (North and South America); a Japanese Yen zone (Japanese hegemony in the Pacific); and the Eurodollar zone of an integrated European Community.

The United States is over a decade behind in the process of forming its dollar zone - plus the U.S. has vast amounts of poverty in its region. It is, therefore, at a disadvantage vis-_-vis its main economic competitors: Japan and Europe.

If the United States has effective control over the Middle East oil, it will have significant economic and political leverage in future negotiations, conflicts and battles with its main economic competitors.

Generally speaking, the United States has about 25 percent of the world's oil reserves. Saudi Arabia has another 25 percent, Iraq and Kuwait combined have 15 percent. That is — 65 percent of the world's oil - not including significant United States' corporate investments in Venezuela, Mexico and elsewhere.

These are *huge* stakes for geo-politics for the next century. The war and continuing actions against the people of Iraq have virtually nothing to do with the persona of Saddam Hussein as an "evil dictator" (although, as with Panama's Manuel Noriega, another CIA asset, Hussein was getting too independent for the U.S. government). Nor has the situation any rationale based on the "liberation of Kuwait" in 1991, or "weapons of destruction" in 1998, or any principle of international law. It is fundamentally about United States hegemony in the region.

This discussion is a general outline. Readers should investigate the overall purpose of United States foreign policy further. Readers should also note that the majority of the American people will *not* benefit if the U.S. government "wins" or regains hegemony in the Middle East. The recent examples from NAFTA in this hemisphere demonstrate that the general working population does not benefit from regional or global control schemes (but that is another discussion).

WHAT TO DO?
Rejection, Resistance and Replacement.

It is important and in the our own self-interest that we reject models of imperialism, racism, sexism and other forms of oppression. We can learn from our history how social change can be accomplished. Howard Zinn's book, *A People's History of the United States*, is much more than a book of repression — it is a book of people rejecting and resisting the oppressive conditions of their lives. It is a good place to start.

At a minimum, people can write letters and call their elected officials; they can participate in teach-ins; engage in protest. The history of civil disobedience and revolutionary struggle has a long and honorable tradition in this country and elsewhere. The traditions of Thoreau, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, the Black Panthers, Ghandi, the women's movement from suffragettes to the current time, the Brown Berets - all should be studied carefully. We should also study how a compliant, law-abiding people - like the population of Germany in the 1930s — can bring disaster to themselves and others.

Recently, students and community people at Ohio State University disrupted a CNN "town meeting" featuring Clinton administration officials. In the days after the event, it is clear that there would have been fewer penetrating questions had the disorder not occurred.

Although rationale for the apparent negotiated settlement between Iraq and the United Nations is complex, it is clear that one factor is the Clinton administration's worry about the domestic population of the United States. Continued, sustained, serious, intelligent protest and resistance does make a difference.

Note to the members of the armed forces:

The uniform code of military justice requires soldiers to obey all "lawful orders." It also states that one has "an affirmative duty to disobey all unlawful orders." If the information in this article is accurate (and one should check for oneself), then one should investigate what domestic laws are being violated, and what international treaties, laws and conventions are being violated. Reading the accounts of Nuremberg and the Geneva Convention would be a good place to start. Just as Presidents lie to the general population, the Commander in Chief and his immediate subordinates are not going to tell someone that they have given an unlawful order. This requires independent thought and action.

A catastrophe in the Middle East may have been averted this month, but there are long-term problems. In our rejection and resistance, we can construct a vision for the future before it is too late. ◆

DON'T BOMB IRAQ
Stop the Murder of Iraqi Children

300 people walked in grim silence Saturday, February 21, to show their opposition to U.S. government policies that have resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of children.

The economic sanctions against Iraq have caused these deaths by making basic medical supplies unavailable to hospitals in Iraq. Civilians are dying, children are dying. What is worth the death of a child - a single child? The price of oil? The head of a dictator almost lost to reason? Would you trade your child for these?

What will we gain from the bombing of Iraq? What did we gain from the bombing of Iraq? What has changed?

Think of the face of a child. War always kills more children than soldiers.

Hopi prophets say that the time is near when the United States will have a bomb dropped on it in return for every bomb our government has dropped on another land. Retributive justice - a bomb for a bomb! Justice is not in the hands of the mightiest, it never has been.

When 300 people walked through downtown Olympia in a winter rain behind a casket symbolising the death our wealth brings to the world, they ask us to hold the Iraqi child as dear as our own.

How do we answer?

photo by Wendy C. Ortiz

Briefs, continued

ance or be fairly well off to afford estrogen which helps prevent heart attacks and decreases bone breaks. The health of the poor may suffer. Consider how much cheaper a plant "Premarin" could be.

·Consider that the FDA, drug companies or Congress do not have our health as a concern. We cannot trust that their information will be based on research, but will be based on politics. The last line of this article in *On the Issues* is, "Look, if we all just took Prozac, it wouldn't seem so bad."

Let Patty Murray (and Congress) know that you want them to do their research, that they should shop listening to the "money" and they should really vote *for* the people.

'Compiled' i.e. lifted from ***On the Issues, The Progressive Women's Quarterly****, Winter 1998, "The Bitter Pill" by Leora Tanenbaum, pages 38-41.*

Howard Zinn Refunds

Thanks to the people who supported our efforts by purchasing a ticket to hear historian Howard Zinn. We also regret he became ill and was unable to be with us. We hope he will be here in October.

If you want a refund, send your ticket and a return address to P.O. Box 295, Olympia WA 98507 and we'll send you back a check. Please do that by the end of March, 1998.

Our thanks to those who chose to support the Cafe by letting us keep the money instead of getting a refund. We need all the help, financial and otherwise, we can get. ◆

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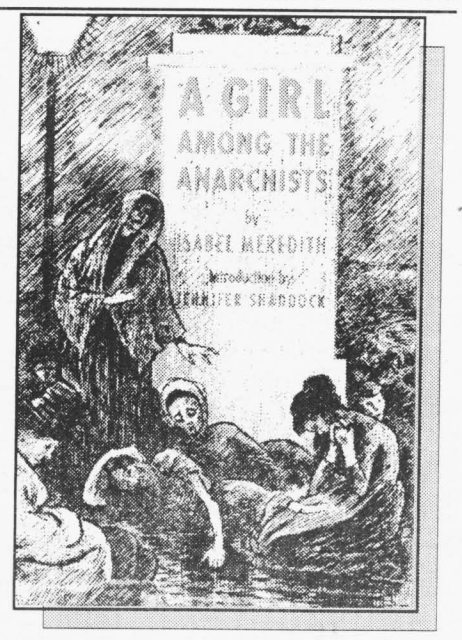

Review by Greg Bye

***A Girl Among the Anarchists* by Isabel Meredith. Introduction by Jennifer Shaddock. Bison Books, 1992 (Reprinted from the original 1903 edition) 302 pages**

The novel *A Girl Among the Anarchists* is the story of young Isabel Meredith, who briefly breaks away from her conservative bourgeois lifestyle, to immerse herself in the anarchist movement as she found it in 1890s London. After many adventures, and lots of activism, centered around her position as editor of the anarchist paper the *Tocsin*, Isabel's passion for anarchism sours. And eventually she returns to the safe, staid middle class world, armed with the philosophic wisdom of Aurelius, "Suppress the complaints, "someone has harmed me," and the harm itself is suppressed."

Isabel Meredith--the pseudonym for Olivia and Helen Rosetti, sisters from a London family prominent in literature, the arts and politics--is drawn to radical politics after much reading, writing, and discussions with her brother. It was her brother Raymond, a medical student, who initially introduced Isabel to London's politically engaged radicals.

At a gathering of London radicals, in the home of the nihilistic Count Nekrovitch--who is (naturally) skeptical of all radical ideas and schemes for human liberation--Isabel meets Dr. Armitage, an "advanced anarchist...[who believes in] the absolute good faith and devotion to principle of the men [sic] with whom he was associated..."

Dr. Armitage clearly demonstrates to Isabel important anarchist principles, at an informal tribunal for Jacob Myers, the exposed agent provocateur. Myers, the former editor of the *Bomb* anarchist paper, is an East End London tailor. His treachery has led to violent death, through the untimely detonation of an incendiary device, of his very brother Augustine. And London's finest was beginning to apply the heat. (Soon after the tribunal, directly as a result of Myers's actions, two anarchist comrades will be unjustly imprisoned, and the Bomb will be forcibly closed. But rather than demand that Myers be tarred and feathered (or worse), Dr. Armitage announces that "all we [anarchists] can do is to refuse to associate any further with him...The knowledge of his own meanness should be punishment enough...".

Later that evening, while escorting Isabel to her home, Armitage tells her that "[m]en like Myers are but the outcome of unnatural and vitiated conditions; they are produced by the very society which is our objective to abolish..."

Isabel becomes an anarchist herself not long after the tribunal. And she quickly learns that anarchists have little sympathy for the gradual liberation through organization. To Dr. Armitage, organizations are "only a means for intriguers and rogues to climb to power on the shoulders of their fellow men..." On the other hand, says the good doctor, "[s]everal individuals may unite to attain some common objective...[b]ut each group is autonomous, and within each group each individual is his own law..."

Isabel also learns that some anarchists grant nothing to organized efforts. The daring Giannoli, for one, informs Isabel that "[p]ropaganda by the deed...must be accomplished by solitary individuals acting on innate anarchist principles. The 'gospel' of Giannoli states that anarchists are "[t]o destroy utterly the fabric of existing society by all possible means, by acts of violence and terrorism, by expropriation, by undermining the prevailing ideas of morality, by breaking up the organisations [sic] of those Anarchists and Socialists who believed in association...[and] by preaching revolution wherever and whenever an opportunity occurred or could be improvised."

Implicit in the philosophy of the anarchists (of all tendencies) that Isabel encounters is the conviction that, once the oppressive social relations are ruptured, every one will commence to act on innate anarchist principles, and will not step on the toes of others.

Implicit in the philosophy of the anarchists (of all tendencies) that Isabel encounters is the conviction that, once the oppressive social relations are ruptured, every one will commence to act on innate anarchist principles, and will not step on the toes of others. Obviously, Isabel/Rosettis was/were ignorant of, or not impressed with, the theories of their London contemporaries Prince Kropotkin and William Morris (and others). The two eminent radicals maintained that anarchism--communism, for the anti-parliamentarian Marxist Morris--would be achieved largely through propaganda, education, free association, and mutual aid, and not exclusively through individual propaganda by the deed. One can only speculate, but perhaps Isabel's passion might not have burned out so quickly had the authors associated with thinkers with views similar to the two mentioned above.

As it is, Isabel grows weary of anarchism largely because, with the exception of a few like Armitage and Giannoli, most anarchists are not devoted to the humane ideals that the high-minded philosophy demands. Instead, she finds, in part, "the laziest and most slovenly of men...", to include the army deserter Simpkins, who refused to work, and Short, a man who did as little work as possible, and refused to change clothes.

Worse still, to Isabel, are those who pervert anarchist principles to justify crimes not committed for the "Cause," but for strictly selfish reasons. Fernandez, for instance, stole a large amount of money from his bourgeois brother's business, so that he and another (anarchist) brother could double-elope with Adolpha and Vanni.

But as appalling as these sorts of shenanigans are to Isabel, she has trouble coming to terms with anarchists who are not concerned when (more or less) innocent working stiffs are casualties in bomb attacks, intended to shake the hell out of the rulers, and give courage to the oppressed. "'[S]ociety at large is guilty...'" is the logic behind the murdering of innocents; therefore "'society at large must suffer. [And conveniently enough] [s]ociety is fairly well represented in the mixed crowds in a cafe..."

The novel is well-written, in a lively and clear narrative style. However, as Jennifer Braddock points out in her fine introduction, "the [enduring] value of...[this novel] lies not with its aesthetic merit, though competently written...but with its ideological revelations..." We have a young woman who albeit temporarily, breaks away from her conventional world and finds freedom in anarchism. And falls in love in the process, with an anarchist who rejects her.

Need more details? Read the book. ◆

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Execution Rates Continue to Set Records

What Is This Nation Teaching Our Children?

Diann Rust-Tierney, Director ACLU Capital Punishment Project

...the United States has done more to expand the use of the death penalty than any other nation, with the exception of China.

WASHINGTON -- The Department of Justice's report today chronicling the nation's execution rate is a mark of shame for our country. As the swift pace of executions continues to earn the ignoble distinction of breaking record after record, state executions have become routine and the deaths are growing increasingly unnoticed in the media. We are becoming numb to the violence of executions.

What is our nation teaching our children when we are so cavalier in administering the most final and severe of punishment -- death -- that it creates barely a ripple in the news?

This situation is a direct result of recent changes in federal law that have removed procedural protections for those given the death sentence. As the ability to appeal a death penalty conviction is whittled away, many in the government are likely congratulating themselves for shortening the time between conviction and execution from an average of 10 to 12 years to an average of 6 to 8 years.

Do they continue to applaud when reminded of Wilbert Lee and Freddie Lee Pitts, who spent nine years on death row in Florida before being exonerated and released? Their lives are strong reminders of the difference a year can make: under the current system, their innocence may not have been revealed until after their deaths.

Unfortunately, their cases are not unusual. Research shows that -- since 1973 -- 73 people have been freed from death row after courts have found that they were wrongly convicted. With it taking an average of seven years to exonerate someone on death row, the truncated appeals process all but guarantees that we will kill innocent people.

A United Nations monitor investigating the American use of the death penalty has noted that the United States has done more to expand the use of the death penalty than any other nation, with the exception of China. This despite evidence that the death penalty does not serve as a deterrent.

As we crank up the speed and throw more and more people onto the assembly line of death, what else could we be teaching our children but that life is cheap?

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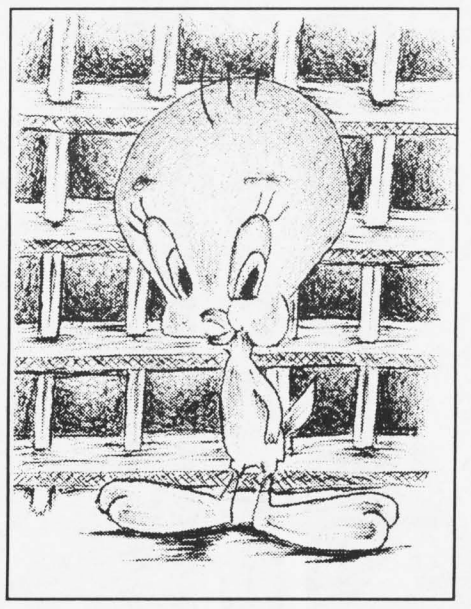


David B Grazia

Books to Prisoners March Events

- Open work/training sessions every Thurs. 3-9 pm above Bulldog News, 116 E. 4th, Olympia.
- **BTP Volunteer Potluck** - 3rd Sun. of the month., (Mar 15th), 3 pm at Liberation Cafe 116 E. 4th Ave, Oly.
- First day of spring, time to sort through your overflowing shelves and bring books to B to P
- March 30th end-of-the-quarter: time to bring in or arrive by mail, Bayview and Ralph's grocery receipts! (dated July '97 to March '98) B to P receives 1%. Please send to the address below.
- **Save the UPC code from Western Family Products** and send to B to P, 116 E 4th Ave, Oly WA 98501

The Giving Keeps On Going

"Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for creating an organization like y'all have! I say "our" cause there are already 8 of us on my cell block who read the books you send! Rather than flood y'all with separate requests-we all decided I'd be the representative.

The books get spread around and shared between the 8 of us and then we donate them to our general library so others can have a chance to read 'em also! It makes us feel good to help/entertain others as y'all help/entertain us!"

Lifetime Likelihood of Going to State or Federal Prison

This Special Report presents lifetime chances of going to State or Federal prison by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin. Using standard demographic lifetable techniques, and assuming that recent incarceration rates remain unchanged, an estimated 1 of every 20 persons (5%) can be expected to serve time in prison during their lifetime. The lifetime chances of a person going to prison are higher for men (9%) than for women (1%) and higher for blacks (16%) and Hispanics (9%) than for whites (2%). At current levels of incarceration newborn black males in this country have a greater than a 1 in 4 chance of going to prison during their lifetimes, while Hispanic males have a 1 in 6 chance, and white males have a 1 in 23 chance of serving time.

NCJ 160092
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics

W.I.P. **seeks articles, artwork (black and white is best) from those in prison. Please send submissions to:**

Works In Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia WA 98507-0295

U.S. leads the world in killing kids

Since 1990, only 6 countries have executed people for crimes they committed as children: Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Iran... and the United States. The U.S. has executed more children than any of the other countries.

Every major international human rights treaty expressly prohibits executing people for crimes committed before the age of 18.

160 children have been sentenced to death in the U.S. since 1973.

Government electrocution, gassing and lethal injecting of kids doubledin the last decade.

There's no limit to how low we can go.

The US Supreme Court has ruled that the execution of children as young as 16 is not "cruel and unusual" punishment. It has yet to make a definitive statement about children under 16.

Of the 38 states with the death penalty: 13 have set the minimum age for death at 18; 4 states set the minimum at 17; 9 set it at 16; 12 have no minimum age.

In 1996, Mississippi prosecutors sought the death penalty for juveniles as young as 13 years of age.

Most often the US kills children of color

2 out of 3 children sent to death row are people of color.

Historically, 2 out of 3 people executed for crimes they committed as children have been African American. During this century, the ratio has jumped to 3 out of 4.

Of the nine girls executed in US history, 8 were Black and 1 was American Indian.

The youngest person executed since WWII in the US was George Stinney, a 14 year-old black boy who was so small his mask fell off while he was being electrocuted by the state of South Carolina.

The Federal Government has imposed the death penalty against American Indian children for crimes they committed as young as 10-years-old.

Your Help Is Needed

Because of the huge number of letters Books for Prisoners-Olympia Support Group receives each month and its limited resources, requests often wait many months to be filled. Thousands of letters still remain in boxes. Your help and generousity are urgently needed.

If we desire individuals in this country's prisons to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic, then we too need to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic. We need to "walk the talk." Please donate your time, money or books.

In greatest demand are:

English, Spanish/English, Southeast Asian dictionaries, thesaurus, new almanaces, and GED books.

Frequently requested are:

African-American, Chicano/Latino, and Native American history and progressive U.S. history.

Please donate:

- Any other good books
- Stamps and stamp money
- Money for tape, wrapping paper, copying

Please bring donations of books to the Books to Prisoner-Olympia office at the Liberation Cafe above Bulldog News.

Please make checks payable to Books to Prisoners.

Address: Books to Prisoners c/o Liberation Cafe, 116 4th Ave, Olympia WA 98501

Telephone: (360) 352-7336

Inmates — All correspondence to Books to Prisoners *must* go through the main branch:

Books to Prisoners
Left Bank Books
92 Pike Street
Seattle WA 98101

WORKS IN PROGRESS

THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

MARCH 1998

FREE

The Crisis In Iraq

4

Along the Color Line
Union Organizing and the Black Poor
&
Raise The Minimum Wage

A Call to Action
Affirmative Action

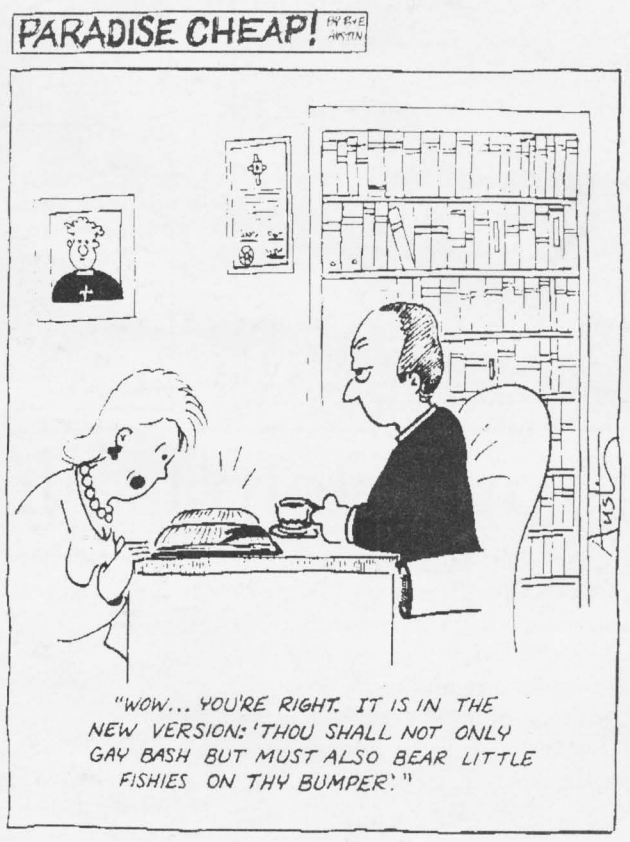
NO WAR Poster

Freedom In Anarchy

Books To Prisoners

"Mad Cow Disease" photo by Bill Wunkle

"Capital Auto Mall" photo by Bill Wunkle


PARADISE CHEAP!
"WOW... YOU'RE RIGHT. IT IS IN THE NEW VERSION: 'THOU SHALL NOT ONLY GAY BASH BUT MUST ALSO BEAR LITTLE FISHIES ON THY BUMPER.'"

Works In Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507